



BANK OF HALLS

ESTABLISHED 1899

HALLS, TENNESSEE 38040

PHONE 731-836-7515

March 8, 2006

Robert E Feldman
Executive Secretary
FDIC
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429

Dear Mr. Feldman

Wal-Mart is a very powerful purchaser. They squeeze their suppliers down to the last penny, no thought at all about live and let live, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Wal-Mart is responsible for the closing of hundreds of small mom and pop stores, grocery stores, 5 & 10 stores, dry goods stores, drug stores, Western Auto stores, Otasco stores, independent hardware store. The list can go on and on. They have been ruthless in their pursuit of business. They started out advertising American made merchandise. Now I would say 70% is made in China or some other foreign country.

If they are allowed into the banking business, that will be the final stroke. The small towns that still have community banks-- home-owned banks-- that are interested in the welfare of their town, school and what small businesses that are struggling to survive, Wal-Mart will kill them the same way they have all the other small businesses that were supporting their town and community. They will not lend money to the farmers, home builders, and needy citizens who borrow from the small home town bank.

I know what I am speaking about. I ran a successful Western Auto franchise for 22 years before Wal-Mart got so powerful. They got me. Now I have been in banking for 27 years. Let's keep them out of banking for the good of the good old U.S.A.

Yours truly,

Joe McCarthy
Exec. V. P. & Cashier

JM:jcn